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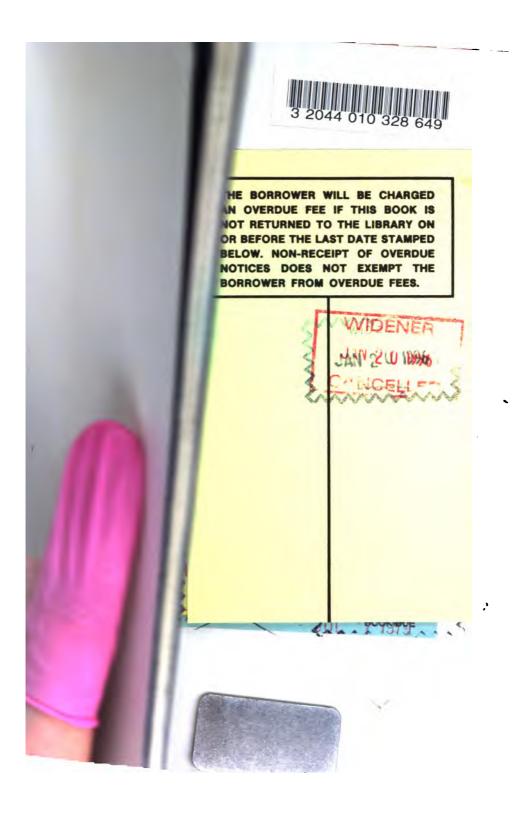


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# Negro Journalism,

An Essay on the History and Present Conditions of the Negro Press

GEORGE W. GORE, JR.
Junior in Course in Journalism
De Pauw University

Greencastle, Indiana 1922

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#### PREFACE .

This pamphlet does not pretend to be a detailed or scholarly discussion of the subject. Lack of experience and funds have limited the author to a mere outlining or suggesting of the field. In fact, this essay is only the expansion of a term paper submitted in fulfillment of a semester requirement in the Course in Journalism.

The main purpose of this essay is to show the various stages of development through which the Negro press has evolved with a view of furnishing a background for the better understanding of its present status. It is written, too, to present the problems and inherent possibilities of Negro Journalism; to point out the progress which is being made today; and to suggest future possibilities. If this attempt, amateur and incomplete as it may be, in any measure awakens an interest in the achievements and efforts of Negro newspapers and magazines it has served its purpose.

For the period up to 1890, the author frequently has referred to The Afro-American Press and Its Editors by I. Garland Penn—a work which is an authority on the subject for the period covered by it. A large part of the biographical data and information on present day newspapers was obtained from the Negro Year Book and communications. I especially wish to thank those editors and publishers who so kindly gave me the information which I desired.

I am also very grateful to The Chicago Defender and The Southern Workman of Hampton, Va., for the loan of some cuts.

Especially do I wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance and helpful criticism of my instructor, Prof. L. E. Mitchell, director of the Course in Journalism, in DePauw University.

GEORGE W. GORE, JR.

Greencastle, Indiana.

## **CONTENTS**

- I. PREFACE-
- II. EARLY ATTEMPTS (1827-1817)-
  - 1. Discussion of nine pioneer papers.
  - 2. Biographic sketches of their editors.
- III. THE ABOLITIONIST PRESS (1817-1865)-
  - 1. Discussion of eleven papers.
  - 2. Biographic sketches of editors.
- IV. THE RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD (OR THE PERIOD OF FREE-DOM) 1865-1880.
  - 1. Discussion of principal papers and their editors.
  - 2. Statistics as to paper published.
- V. THE TRANSITION PERIOD (1880-1900)-
  - 1. Discussion of papers established that still exist.
  - 2. The Associated Correspondents of Race Newspapers.
- VI. THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA (1900—)—
  - 1. Journalism regarded as a vocation.
  - Discussion of organization, staffs, circulation and advertisements.
  - 3. News service and syndicates.
- VII. PRESENT DAY NEWSPAPERS-
  - Discussion of mechanical equipment, news handling, etc.
  - 2. Circulation and staffs.
  - Twelve best Negro newspapers.
- VIII. DAILY NEGRO NEWSPAPERS-
  - 1. Early attempts.
  - 2. Daily editions for special periods.
  - 3. Present day dailies.
  - IX. NEGRO MAGAZINES-
    - 1. Precursors.
    - 2. Discussions of the development.
    - 3. Present day publications—characteristics, size, circulation, and aim.
    - X. JOURNALISM AND NEGRO SCHOOLS-
      - 1. High School and College papers.
      - 2. College courses in Journalism—Howard, Fisk, and Wilberforce.
      - 3. Training in printing—Tuskegee and Hampton.
  - XI: A FORECAST OF THE FUTURE-
    - 1. Development, opportunity for advancement, and achievement.
- XII. APPENDIX—LIST OF NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES PUBLISHED TODAY.

## A History of Negro Journalism In the United States

## CHAPTER 1.

### EARLY NECRO NEWSPAPERS

FREEDMAN'S

JOURNAL

Seven years after Benjamin Lundy began

The Genius of Universal Emancipation, and
four years before William Lloyd Garrison

started to publish The Liberator, Negro Journalism in America was
born. The first publication was Freedom's Journal\*, issued March
16, 1827. It was in form a medium-sized, neat-looking, well-printed
weekly, about nine by twelve inches. Freedom's Journal was a
thorough-going abolitionist sheet, having been called into being
to defend the Negro against the vile attacks of a New York editor
of Jewish descent who had pro-slavery and Negro-hating tendencies.
This new organ had for its motto, "Righteousness Exalteth a
Nation," and its columns were filled with long dissertations on the
immorality of slavery.

JOHN RUSSWURM
FIRST EDITOR

The editor, John Russwurm, one of the first
Negroes to graduate from a college in the
United States, graduated from Bowdoin College in 1826. Russwurm was born in Jamaica in 1799. He published The Journal until 1829, when he went to Liberia, where he
became editor of The Liberia Herald.

THE COLORED A period of about eight years elapsed before the founding of a second Negro newspaper. In January, 1837, Rev. Samuel Cornish began the publishing of The Weekly Advocate. The name was changed in March, however, to The Colored American, and under that name it continued to be issued weekly until 1812. The first editor, Rev. Cornish, was one of the leading Negro journalists of the period. He had been associated with Freedom's Journal, and throughout a period of twenty years he was actively connected with some newspaper.

ADVOCATED

The subscription price of *The Colored American* was two dollars per year in advance.

Its objects were, according to its flag, "the moral, social and political elevation of the free Colored people;

<sup>\*</sup>March 21, 1828, the name was changed to Rights of All.

and the peaceful emancipation of the enslaved." The paper was well received by the American press of the period, and many favorable comments on it appeared from time to time.

The first two Negro newspapers had their THE ELEVATOR headquarters in New York City, but their successor was established in Albany, N. Y. The Elevator came into being in 1812, with Stephen Myers as its publisher. The paper was strongly backed by the Abolitionists. Among its influential supporters and backers was Horace Greeley of The New York Tribune.

THE NATIONAL Contemporaneous with The Elevator ap-WATCHMAN peared The National Watchman and Clairion. which was established in Troy, N. Y., in the

latter part of 1842. Its publisher and editor was William G. Allen. It was short-lived, as was also The People's Press which was published by Thomas Hamilton in New York City the following year.

THE MYSTERY Following the lead taken by the empire state, Pennsylvania became a field of activity for the Negro journalist. In 1843, The Mystery was published at Pittsburgh by Dr. Martin Delaney, a graduate of Harvard College. At first it was conducted as the personal property of its editor, but as such it survived only nine months when it became necessary to transfer its ownership to a joint-stock company. After the change

Delaney was the first Negro editor to be sued for libel. He was fined for his statements; but his popularity was so great that the

fine was paid by popular subscription.

Delaney was retained in the capacity of editor.

The Mystery ceased publication under that name in 1818, at which time it was purchased by the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

As the result of a statement by the editor of STATEMENT BY N. Y. SUN. ORIGIN The New York Sun, "The Sun shines for all OF THE RAM'S HORN white men and not for colored men," in January, 1847, The Ram's Horn was begun.

Its editor was Willis Hodges, who according to The Afro-American Press and Its Editor\*, furnished the money necessary to publish the first issue by whitewashing in New York City for two months. Within a short period of time the circulation of the paper reached two thousand five hundred copies. The subscription price was \$1.50 to subscribers within the state, and \$1 a year to those outside the state. Its motto was-"We are men, and therefore interested in whatever concerns men." The publication was a five column folio, printed on both sides. It suspended publication in June 1818.

\*Published by I. Garland Penn in 1891.

#### **CHAPTER 2**

## THE ABOLITIONIST PRESS

(1817-1865)

Douglass Founds North Star With the founding of the North Star, at Rochester, N. Y., November 1, 1847, a new era in Negro Journalism was begun. The

new paper was conducted on a much higher plane than any of the preceding publications. The editor of the North Star was Frederick Douglass, a man who stood head and shoulders above his colleagues. In fact, Douglass is in Negro Journalism what Bennett, or Pulitzer, or Greeley, or Dana is in American Journalism. The personal fame of the man gave his paper at once a place among the first journals of the country.

The columns of the North Star were filled with contributions from correspondents in Europe and the West Indies, as well, as from all parts of the United States. It was the first Negro newspaper to have any considerable circulation among the American

people outside of its own race group.

LIFE OF FRED DOUGLASS The life of the founder of this paper is a most interesting one. Born a slave at Tuckahoe, Md., February, 1817, he escaped from

his master in 1833, going first to New York City, and then to New Bedford, Mass. In 1811, he was sent out as a lecturer under the auspices of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. He was one of the most prominent anti-slavery agitators of his day; a series of lectures on the immorality of human slavery was given by him in England. Douglass' power as a writer was great, and his ready and vigorous use of the English language was always effective. The paper was discontinued shortly after the abolition of slavery.

THE IMPARTIAL CITIZEN

Around the brilliancy of the North Star moved several satellites, which somewhat reflected the light of the major planet.

Among these was *The Impartial Citizen*, published at Syracuse, N. Y., in 1848, by Samuel Ward. It is said that the paper was conducted on a high plane and was ably edited.

COLORED MAN'S JOURNAL RUNS TEN YEARS The suspension of *The Ram's Horn* in 1848 left the Negroes of New York City without a newspaper. However, in 1851, Louis H. Putman began the publication of *The Colored* 

Man's Journal. It was backed by a friend who financially supported it, and as a result the paper was able to run for a period

of ten years—a record unequalled during the period before the Emancipation by any paper with the exception of the North Star.

ALIENATED AMERICAN

The Alienated American, edited by W. H. Day, was the first Negro newspaper published in Ohio. It entered upon its career in Cleve-

land. Ohio, in 1852, five years after its editor was graduated from Oberlin College. The Alienated American was one of the best journals published by Negroes in the nineteenth century.

Day was a prolific, scholarly writer. His publication was a creditable one and realized a good support. The paper ceased publication in 1856, when its editor made a trip to England.

A. M. E. CHURCH BUYS THE MYSTERY

In 1818, the African Methodist Episcopal Church purchased The Mystery of Pittsburgh, Pa., of which Martin Delaney was editor.

During the four years of its existence in Pittsburgh, the paper was known as the Christian Herald. In 1852, the paper was moved to Philadelphia, and its name was changed to Christian Recorder. Rev. M. M. Clarke became its first editor.

CHRISTIAN RECOIL'E'. OLDEST NEGRO NEWSPAPER The beginning of the Christian Recorder in 1852, marks the founding of the oldest Negro newspaper in existence today. It is also significant in that it marks the first serious

. 4 .

attempt in Negro Journalism to establish a religious newspaper. The early years of the paper were beset with many difficulties, and oftimes the paper was not issued regularly. Not until Elisha Weaver became editor in 1861 did it appear weekly. The size of the paper has increased from 5 columns, 4 pages, 12 by 16 inches, in 1848, to its present size, 4 columns, 16 pages, 10 by 16 inches.

The present circulation of the paper is about 5,000. Its editor is R. R. Wright Jr., who received the degree of Ph.D. from the

University of Pennsylvania in 1911.

NEGRO JOURNALISM The year 1855 saw Negro Journalism starting on the Pacific coast. Within a space of less ON PACIFIC COAST than thirty years Negro Journalism had made its way from the Atlantic to the Pacific seaboard. The first publication was established at San Francisco under the name of The Mirror of the Times. Its editor was Judge Gibbs. It was published for seven years, and in 1862 was merged into The Pacific Appeal.

THE HERALD Another contemporary of the North Star was **OF FREEDOM** The Herald of Freedom, published in 1855, in Ohio, by Peter H. Clark. It was shortlived but during its existence it was one of the best advocates of

Abolition. Its editor was a man of good common sense and vast knowledge. After the suspension of his paper, Clark was associated with Douglass on the *North Star*.

THE ANGLO-AFRICAN Thomas Hamilton, the publisher of the shortlived *People's Press*, again attempted a publication in New York City. On July 23,

1859, he began publishing 'The Anglo-African. The paper was well printed and in the opinion of Frederick Douglass "had more promise and more journalistic ability about it, than any of the other papers." The motto of the papers of the period was highly indicative of their editorial outlook and policy. Practically every paper had its motto, and The Anglo-African was no exception. Its motto was: "Man must be free; if not through law, then above the law."

ADVOCATES HAYTIAN

EMIGRATION

In 1860, the paper was bought by James
Redpath—the object of his purchase being to advocate the Haytian Emigration Move-

ment. With the change in ownership the paper was known as The Weekly Anglo-African. Later, in 1861, the paper reverted to the Hamilton family, being published by Robert Hamilton. The original name of the paper was resumed, and under its new publisher became an ardent supporter of the Republican party. With the freeing of the slaves, The Anglo African began to advocate the need of educational facilities for the freedman, especially in the South. The paper was suspended shortly after Emancipation.

COLORED CITIZEN ORGAN OF NEGRO SOLDIERS DURING WAR During the period of the Civil War only two Negro newspapers were established, one of which was *The Colored Citizen*, published at Cincinnati, Ohio, by John P. Sampson. It was issued in the interest of the Negro

soldiers fighting in the war. It was commonly referred to as the "Soldiers' Organ," and was widely disseminated among the soldiers. Sampson was well educated—being a product of the Boston public school system—and as an editor he was both able and enterprising. The Colored Citizen was suspended the latter part of 1865.

THE PACIFIC APPEAL

In 1862, The Pacific Appeal came into being in San Francisco, but it was not a new publication, however, it was merely the suc-

cessor to *The Mirror of the Times*. Its editor was William H. Carter. It became the index of the activities of the Negroes on the Pacific coast. The paper's motto was: "Ile who would be free, himself must strike the blow." It was a six column folio, well-printed, and contained editorials which on the whole were sober and sound.

The Elevator,
EDITED BY BELL

coast was The Elevator, which was begun by
Phillip Bell, April 18, 1865, in San Francisco, Cal. The paper stated its mission thus: "We shall labor for the civil and political enfranchisement of the Colored people—not as a distinct and separate race, but as American citizens." The publisher encouraged advertisements and quoted his rates as being 60 cents for one insertion and 25 cents for each subsequent insertion.

BELL A MAN

OF LEARNING

Bell had been connected with the journalistic field for twenty-five years, and as a result was experienced in the work. His editorials were of a high quality. His paper was neatly printed and contained contributions relating to science, art, literature and drama. In fact, it is said that Bell himself was well-versed in helles-lettres and dramatic criticism. By many of his contemporaries he was considered the Napoleon of the Negro press. Although he died in

## CHAPTER III

•1889. his paper continued for many years thereafter.

## THE RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD

(1865-1880)

EMANCIPATION GOAL OF NEGRO Press With the emancipation, a new period in Negro Journalism is begun. For nearly forty years newspapers had been published by Negroes who had obtained their freedom, but

the circulation of these papers among the race group of necessity was limited. Emancipation marked the realization of the goal of the Negro press prior to that time, and with the ushering in of freedom many of the newspapers ceased publication. There was, however, still another great, if not even more important task for the Negro press—the education of the masses of illiterate. This task the surviving newspapers, together with many new ones, set out to accomplish.

FIRST SOUTHERN
NEGRO NEWSPAPER
was the beginning of Negro newspapers in the South, where the large majority of Negroes were located. The first Negro newspaper published in the South was The Colored American of Augusta, Ga., issued for the first time in October, 1865. The following paragraph from its propectus will suffice to show the paper's attitude and policy:

COLORED AMERICAN'S PROPECTUS

"It (The Colored American) is designated to be a vehicle for the diffusion of Religious-Political and General Intelligence. It will be devoted to the promotion of harmony and

good-will between the whites and Colored people of the South, and untiring in its advocacy of Industry and Education among all classes; but particularly the class most in need of our agency.

"Accepting, at all times, the decision of public sentiment and Legislative Assemblies, and bowing to the majesty of law, it will fearlessly remonstrate against legal and constitutional proscription by appeal to the public sense of justice." \*\*

SHUFTEN'S EDITORIAL ON THE RACE PROBLEM

The editor of the paper was J. T. Shuften, who was ably assisted by Dr. James Lynch. Shuften was credited by The New York World as having written the best article of

the time on the "Negro Question." The paper was short-lived and suspended February, 1866.

PRECURSORS IN SOUTHERN STATES '

With the beginning of Negro Journalism in the South, papers sprung up in other states: The Colored Tennessean and The True Communicator, of Baltimore, Md., being among the more noted ones. Many of the papers were short-lived; others changed hands and

names frequently and continued for several years.

Papers Grow in INFLUENCE AND CIRCULATION

EDUCATED

The year 1868 saw the founding of The Charleston Leader, at Charleston, S. C., By 1870, the Negro press began to make itself felt. The People's Journal, with a circula-

tion of over 10,000 was being edited by Dr. R. L. Perry. In Mississippi, James J. Spellman nad John Lynch began The Colored Citizen. December, 1870, marked the founding of The New Orleans Louisianian, by P. B. S. Pinchback, who in 1873 became governor of Louisiana, being the only Negro ever to hold this position.

August 1861, John J. Freeman started The Progressive American, in New York City, which existed for ten years. The one outstanding achievement of this paper is the fact that as a result of its fight for Negro teachers in the public schools twenty-three were appointed. EDITORS HIGHLY Between 1865 and 1880, over 30 newspapers

of more or less merit came into existence; Negro newspapers were being published in

21 states. The papers of the period were ably edited and were the product of some of the most highly educated Negroes.

Pinchback died in Washington, D. C., Dec. 22, 1921.

\*\*Afro-American Press.

## CHAPTER IV

## THE PERIOD OF TRANSITION

(1880-1900)

Number of Papers

The last twenty years of the ninteenth century were marked by an increase in the number of papers published. More than 150 papers were being published by Negroes in thirty different states before the dawn of the new century. To trace the history of all of these papers would be useless, if not well nigh impossible, as but few of them were long-lived or permanent. Most of them were started for the achievement of a single end, and having served the temporary need disappeared. There are, however, several papers which were established during this period that demand treatment because of their longevity and present existence.

PHILADELPHIA
TRIBUNE
Among this group is The Philadlephia Tribune, founded by Christopher J. Perry in
1881. Perry, who was sole owner of his

paper, had had much experience in Journalism before becoming a publisher. His work as editor of the Colored Department of *The Sunday Mercury*, had established his reputation as a journalist.

REMARKABLE Since its founding, SUCCESS UNDER ceasingly towards result the success

Since its founding, its editor has worked unceasingly towards its development and as a result the success of the paper has been remarkable. Today the paper exists, and

decess under Perry in spite of the death of its founder in 1920, is still carried on by his heirs. Today *The Philadelphia Tribune* occupies an enviable position among Negro papers, and is undoubtedly one of the twelve best Negro papers in the United States. At the time of his death, Christopher Perry was president of The National Negro Press Association.

THE AGE OLDEST
NEGRO PAPER IN
NEW YORK CITY
The oldest Negro newspaper published in New York City at the present time is The New York Age. It was founded in 1888 by T. Thomas Fortune, the living dean of Negro

newspaper editors. Fortune began his journalistic career as a boy in the office of a white paper published in Marianna, Fla. His first editorship came in 1880, when he became connected with The New York Globe. Under the guidance of Fortune, The Age was perhaps the greatest Negro newspaper of the period. Garland Penn, in his Afro-American Press (published in 1891), styles, Fortune as "the most noted man in Afro-American journalism."

RICHMOND PLANET EDITER BY MITCHELL The Richmond Planet, founded by John Mitchell, Jr., in 1884, is another Negro newspaper that has enjoyed longevity. Mitchell seems to have been a born newspaperman,

and practically all of his life he has devoted himself to journalism. Despite his location in the Southland, Mitchell has ever been a bold and fearless writer. Today *The Richmond Planet* still exists, with John Mitchell, Jr., at its head, and has a circulation of over 25,000.

SMITH AND THE
CLEVELAND GAZETTE

The Cleveland Gazette was begun in August,
1883, with H. C. Smith as sole owner. It
was considered as one of the best edited

papers in the United States. Smith was an ardent politician, and his editorials advocating Republicanism were exceptionally pointed and well put. The paper was one of the few Negro papers of the period that was a financial success. The Cleveland Gazette is still published by H. C. Smith. It has a circulation of approximately 20,000.

WILLIAM CHASE AND THE BEE Perhaps the strongest Negro newspaper ever published in Washington, D. C., is *The* Washington Bee, of which William Calvin

Chase is editor and founder. Chase is especially noted for his bull-dog tenacity in exposing and attacking fraud. He has always been one of the "big guns" in editorial artillery. Chase is still editor of his paper, and The Bee buzzes as of old.

THE FREEMAN
FIRST ILLUSTRATED
NEGRO WEEKLY

The first illustrated Negro newspaper was The Indianapolis Freeman, founded by Edward Cooper of Indianapolis Ind., July 14, 1888. The paper consisted of eight pages,

and gave a complete review of the doings of Negroes everywhere. The extensive use of cuts and illustrations made the paper famous. As an all around newspaperman, Cooper was without a peer, and under his management the paper reached a pre-eminent position in Negro Journalism. Today *The Freeman* is owned and controlled by George L. Knox, and it still enjoys a wide range of popularity. The paper features theatricals and sports. The present circulation is about 30,000.

AFRO-AMERICAN
FOUNDED IN 1893
by W. M. Alexander marks the beginning of a paper which today figures most conspicuously in Negro Journalism. About 1896, the paper came into the hands of J. H. Murphy, Sr.,\* who is now its managing editor at

the age of eighty. More will be said of The Afro-American in connection with the chapter on Present Day Papers.

LEADING PAPERS IN 1897

A list of the leading Negro newspapers in America in 1897, compiled by J. T. Haley in his book Sparkling Gems of Race Knowl-

edge, includes the following: The Colored American, Washington, D. C.; The New York Age; The Indianapolis Freeman; The Cleveland Gazette; The Boston Courant; The Richmond (Va.) Planet; The Huntsville (Ala.) Gazette; The Southern Age, Atlanta, Ga.; The Progress, Helena. Ark.; The Elevator, San Francisco, Cal.; The Colorado Statesman, Denver Colo.; The Appeal Chicago, Ill.; The Afro-American, Baltimore, Md., and The Denver (Colo.) Star. Murphy died in April, 1922, at the age of 80 years.

ORGANIZATION
OF NEGRO
CORRESPONDENTS

It would be improper to close a disc. ssion of the period without mentioning the organizing of the "Associated Correspondents of Race Papers" on April 23, 1890. The object

of the organization was to establish a better medium of communication from the capital. This step was perhaps the first real effort for unison among Negro newspapers, and marked a growing spirit of journalistic co-operation and interdependency.

## **CHAPTER V**

## THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA

(1900----)

JOURNALISM
BECOMING
A PROFESSION

Without doubt the first two decades of the twentieth century mark the highest progress in Negro Journalism. More papers have been established, and better papers have been

produced. A realization of the power of the press has grown as the period of freedom has increased and race consciousness has. been developed. More men with capital have invested in newspapers. Publishers and editors began for the first time to consider Journalism a profession from which a living could be derived.

Lack Funds and
NEED EQUIPMENT
well-balanced newspaper has been and still
is the greatest drawback to the Negro publisher. Until in very recent years, no Negro newspaper did all of
its mechanical work. In many cases the newspaper office merely
collected and arranged the news, and then carried it to some pub-

lishing concern. In other cases, the paper was printed by a publishing house, although the "forms" were made-up in the papers own shop. Thus, Negro newspapers have not been independent concerns.

LACK OF LIVE

In his effort to seriously make journalistic progress, the publisher of a Negro newspaper has always found it difficult to obtain sufficient live material to fill up his sheet. There have been no news bureaus or syndicates to supply him with the type of news needed to make his paper a real newsy sheet. In his endeavor to "pad out" in order to continually fill the standard size of his paper, the Negro publisher has been compelled to "clip" news previously featured by the daily newspapers or rewrite news from other Negro papers—a task rendered difficult by the corresponding dearth of real news in all Negro papers during "dull" seasons.

POOR ORGANIZATION Prior to and at the beginning of the twentieth A SERIOUS HANDICAP century, the organization of the average Negro newspaper amounted to a printereditor, perhaps an assistant whose duties were varied and manifold, an office girl, who in addition to keeping books, also performed the duties of copy-reader, and two or three agents who worked part time on a percentage basis. The typographical and grammatical structure of many of the papers suffered greatly through the lack of having a staff sufficiently trained and equipped with the proper facilities for turning out a well-edited, well-printed sheet.

Dependence on a small, under-paid and inefficient organization—a condition analogous, and in many instances worse than that which exists on the small town newspaper—has seriously handicapped the Negro newspaper of the past.

News Bureaus and Syndicates Founded The past twenty years have witnessed the evolution of a new Negro press. Stronger papers have been begun, and news syndicates and news associations have been

founded. Examples of the latter are: The Hampton Institute Service, The Tuskegee Institute Press Service, Allen's News Agency, The R. W. Thompson News Agency, The National Negro Press Association and The Associated Negro Press. Especially is the last named organization rendering a great service and filling a great need.

Associated Negro Press has been in Negro Press has been in existence less than four years but during that time it has rapidly grown and achieved great success. Today it has a membership of more than 100 newspapers.

The establishment of the A. N. P. was the first effort in Negro Journalism to assemble and distribute regularly general news from all sections of the United States and other countries affecting Colored people. Through the work of this organization big news stories now appear simultaneously in all of the leading Negro newspapers. The A. N. P. maintains executive offices in Chicago and permanent bureaus in Washington and New York.

PAPERS OF THE PERIOD Among the present day papers established in this period are: The Boston Guardian. The Nushville Globe. The Atlanta Indepen-

dent, The Chicago Defender, The Detroit Leader, The Pittsburgh Courier, The St. Louis Argus, The Dallas Express, The Cleveland Advocate. The Negro World, The Indianapolis Ledger, The Indianapolis Recorder, and The Chicago Whip.

### CHAPTER VI

## PRESENT DAY PAPERS

250 Secular Weeklies Today over 250 secular Negro newspapers are being published in the United States, with a total circulation of over one million

five hundred thousand copies. These papers are published in 34 states and in the district of Columbia.

Papers Have Journalistic Appearance Papers published in the larger centers where the Negro population is large, such as New York City, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland, St. Louis, Washington, Detroit-

Indianapolis, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Nashville and Atlanta have developed to a high degree. Their make-up on the whole is good; their news stories for the most part conform with accepted journalistic style; their leads are of the summary type; their headlines, although somewhat sensational, are usually well constructed; their news treatment is becoming more impersonal; on the whole they are a great improvement over the Negro papers of the past.

DEFENDER HOUSED
IN \$200,000 PLANT

Negro newspaper offices are being transformed from mere receiving stations for news to newspaper plants. During May, 1921,

The Chicago Defender, one of the leading Negro newspapers, moved into a new building fitted up by its owner, Robert S. Abbott, at an expense of over \$200,000. The new Defender plant compares favorably with that of any paper of its size in the United States.



Abbott, Editor and Owner of The Chicago Defender, Chicago, Illinois

Its equipment includes four linotype machines, each equipped with two magazines, geared to cast seven lines per minute. The press on which *The Defender* is printed is a 32-page and color machine, made by the celebrated Goss Printing Press Company. It is driven by a 30 H.P. motor and six men are required for its operation. It prints, folds and counts the papers all in one operation at a speed of 35-000 copies per hour. The paper's circulation is over 200,000.

Another paper which is representative of the new order of things in Negro Journalism is

The Afro-American was among the first Negro papers to own and operate its own plant. Today the plant consists of a three-story build-

ate its own plant. Today the plant consists of a three-story building, Goss Press, three linotype machines, etc. The paper has twenty-one active employees and over two hundred agents in the state. The sworn circulation of the paper for 1920-21 was twenty thousand and one hundred copies weekly.

TRIBUNE OWNS
From a humble beginning in 1881, The \$100,000 PLANT
Philadelphia Tribune has grown until today its own hundred thousand dollar plant, fully equipped to do modern job and commercial work in addition to printing the paper. Christopher J. Perry remained sole owner



First page of the Chicago Defender, a leading Negro weekly newspaper with a \$200,000 plant and a subscription list which is over 175,000. A view of the plant is also shown.

of the paper from its founding to the time of his death. Today the paper is being published by his children, and is continuing along the conservative lines which have characterized the paper for more than 35 years.

BETTER STAFFS AND NEWS

In the past, the editorial page has been the one redeeming feature of the average Negro newspaper. Today the papers are beginning

to have well-balanced staffs, reporters, city editors, cartoonists, etc. News stories are being better written, copy is being handled more carefully, accuracy is being insisted upon, and make-up in general is being improved.

SECTIONAL
DIFFERENCES IN
DEVELOPMENT

Papers printed in different parts of the country vary quite significantly in their makeup and quality. The best papers are probably published in the Middle West and the

East. The Southern press is still in the rear, although signs are evident that it is beginning to wake up. At the present four Southern papers have a very high national rating. They are The Afro-American, The Atlanta Independent The Nashville Globe and The Dallas Express.

Papers Having Over 30,000

Seven papers have over 30,000 subscribers. The list includes the following papers in the order named: The Chicago Defender, The

Negro World, The Indianapolis Ledger, The Atlanta Independent, The New York News, The Pittsburgh Courier and The Birmingham Reporter.

TWELVE LEADING
NEGRO WEEKLIES

Any attempt to select the leading Negro newspapers of necessity must be more or less arbitrary, and dependent upon prejudices toward certain types of journalism. A probable list of the best twelve weeklies might include: The Chicago Defender, The Afro-American, The Cleveland Advocate, The Philadelphia Tribune, The New York Age, The Pittsburgh Courier, The Chicago Whip, The St. Louis Argus. The Indianapolis Ledger, The Atlanta Independent, The Detroit Leader and The Boston Guardian.

#### CHAPTER VII

#### DAILY NEGRO NEWSPAPERS

FIRST DAILY
CAIRO GAZETTE

The first attempt of the Negro journalist to publish a daily newspaper was The Cairo (III.) Gazette, which was first issued April 23.

1882. The editor was W. S. Scott. The paper was issued regu-

larly for six months when the plant was destroyed by fire. It was a readable sheet, contained much original matter, and had a good of orce of reporters.

COLUMBUS

MESSENGER

The next attempt was The Columbus Messenger, published at Columbus, Ga. It was first issued as a daily in 1888. It was edited by B. T. Harvey, a graduate of Tuskegee Institute. The sheet was 12 by 20 inches.

Dailies Issued For Several newspapers have issued daily editions for short periods. The Knoxville (Tenn.) Negro World was issued daily as an advertising medium for two weeks. About 1890 The Public Ledger of Baltimore, Md., was issued daily by Wesley Adams, for a short period. The Nashville Globe published a daily during the \$30,000 Y. M. C. A. campaign in Nashville, Tenn., June 1-12, 1913. It proved a tremendous success for the twelve days and had an average circulation of 5,000 per day. During the World War The Herald of Baltimore, Md., edited by W. T. Andrews, was issued daily.

DAILIES IN FORM
OF "BROADSIDES"
Three daily papers are being published at present. Two of these, The Richmond (Va.)
Colored American and The Washington Colored American are published by the American Publicity Bureau, Inc. and The National Negro Publicity Bureau, Inc., respectively with D. Eugene Taylor listed as general manager of both. In form these papers are "broadsides"—a bulletin type of sheet printed on only one side. They are printed on a sheet measuring 21 inches by 36 inches. The news is set in two double columns, running down the center of the page between a double column of advertising on each side.

DAILY
STANDARD
The third paper is The Indianapolis Daily
Standard which began publication the latter
part of April, 1922, under the editorship of
C. C. Shelby.
It is a 7 column, 1-page paper and retails at 2 cents
per copy.

DRAWBACKS TO

NEGRO DAILY

due chiefly to the fact: (1) That the field
of such papers is already covered to a large
extent by the American daily press; and (2) That a daily paper,
with a restricted field from which to gather news, and denied the
service of the Associated Press, is well nigh impossible. With the
further development of the Associated Negro Press more Negro
dailies may be possible.

### CHAPTER VIII

## NEGRO MAGAZINES

EARLY

MAGAZINES

The magazine field has not been entered as rapidly or as fully by the Negro journalist as the newspaper field. The first Negro magazine, nevertheless, early followed the beginning made by the first Negro newspaper. In 1837, the first magazine—The Mirror of Liberty—was published by David Ruggles. It was devoted to the advancement of the free Negroes in the North, and was issued quarterly from New York City.

Anglo-African

Magazine

Magazine

Magazine

Magazine

Magazine

Mich was in 1856, when Thomas Hamilton, of New York City, issued The Anglo-African Magazine, which was the outgrowth of his newspaper, The Anglo-African. It was devoted to literature, science, statistics and contained articles on the abolition of slavery. It existed for about four years.

A. M. E. REVIEW
OLDEST MAGAZINE
The oldest Negro magazine, like the oldest newspaper, was established by the A. M. E. Church. In 1881, that denomination began the publishing of The A. M. E. Review in Baltimore, Md. Today it still exists and is published in Philadelphia, Pa.

OUR WOMEN
AND CHILDREN
AND CHIL

OVER 100 Many other Negro magazines have been attempted; many of more or less note, but of the magazines established prior to 1900, scarcely a one, if any, are in existence today.

Of the leading present day magazines, none can boast of as long a period of publication as the present day newspapers. At present about one hundred magazines are being published by Negroes. However, this number includes school periodicals, church organs and fraternal organs, and only a small fraction of the total number are purely literary fly secular publications.

THE CRISIS EDITED A
BY DR. DUBOIS g

Among the foremost Negro magazines of general literature is *The Crisis*, published at New York City, under the editorship of Dr.

W. E. B. DuBois, perhaps the leading literary figure among the race today. While the publication is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, it contains short stories, essays, sketches and poetry of a high literary quality.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NUMBER A special feature of *The Crisis* is the emphasis it places on higher education. Each July it publishes an educational number containing the photographs of Negro college

graduates from white Northern institutions during the past school year. The issue also contains a resume of the educational progress of the year.

THE MESSENGER, A JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE The Messenger, published in New York City by Phillip Randolph and Chandler Owen, is devoted to economic, political and sociological subject-matter, with special emphasis

upon the Negro and his relation to the labor problem. The tremendous influence of this magazine, devoted as it is to such a special field, is clearly shown by the fact that at present it has a circulation of over 26,000.

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO MUSIC AND SPORTS Another magazine which confines itself to a limited field is *The American Musician and* Sportsman Magazine. This publication is printed in Philadelphia, Pa., by William A.

Potter, editor. It is intended to afford opportunity for the expression of opinion on things musical, and in addition to its emphasis on music it deals with all branches of professional and amateur sports. The magazine has a circulation of 5500.

JOURNAL OF NEGRO HISTORY One of the most scholarly periodicals published by Negroes is *The Journal of Negro History* edited by Carter G. Woodson, Ph.D.,

at Washington, D. C. The publication treats in a thorough-going and detailed manner the history of the Negro race.

BROWNIES' BOOK FOR NECRO YOUTH The Brownies' Book, a magazine devoted to the activities of the Negro youth, is also published in New York City and has at its

head Dr. DuBois and Augustus Dill. It contains stories, the life and deeds of famous men and women of the Negro race, and current events of the world told in language suitable for children. In a similar manner to the *The Crisis*, it features the photographs of Negro high school graduates.

FEATURE NECRO
Two magazines of national importance and SHORT STORIES
published in Chicago, Ill., are The Half-Century, edited by Katherine Williams Irmin and The Favorite, edited by Fenton Johnson. Both of these periodicals feature literary material and short stories dealing with Negro life.

THE RADIATOR Another periodical dealing with a special field is *The Radiator*, a bi-monthly insurance magazine, edited by Sadie T. Mossell at Durham, N. C. Its purpose is to disseminate news and information to Negro insurance companies and workers.

LEADING PRESENT

DAY MAGAZINES

time are: The Journal of the National Medical Association, issued quarterly by the National Medical Association at Tuskegee Institute, Ala.; The Pullman Porter's Review, Chicago, Ill.; The Search Light, Raleigh, N. C.; The Rainbow, New York City, and The Crusader, New York City.

#### CHAPTER 1X

#### TRAINING IN NEGRO SCHOOLS

ELEMENTARY

TRAINING IN

HIGH SCHOOLS

training in Journalism. Even in the high schools, the development of a vague appreciation of, and elementary training in Journalism is afforded by the publishing of school papers, under the supervision of the English department. Such schools as Dunbar High School, Washington, D. C.; Summer High School, St. Louis, Mo.; Central High School, Louisville, Ky.; Pearl High School, Nashville, Tenn., and Langston High School, Hot Springs, Ark., illustrate the point.

COLLEGE What is true of the high schools is true of PUBLICATIONS the Normal and Industrial schools and colleges on a larger scale. Approximately one hundred periodicals are published by such institutions at least once a month. Some of these are purely the product of the student body; a few of them are the product of both students and faculty; still others are the publication of the administration and faculty, and under the supervision of a university editor. Many of the latter have developed to the place where they are nationally known.

Such periodicals as The Fisk University News, The Southern Workman (Hampton Institute), Howard University Record (quarterly), The Tuskegee Student and The Atlanta University Bulletin (quarterly) are among the best Negro publications in the United States.

JOURNALISM COURSES AT FISK UNIVERSITY This, however, is not all. The training of Negro journalists is being attempted through college courses. Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn., perhaps, was the first school to give

such courses. Under the professorship of Isaac Fisher, one of the foremost Negro editors today, four courses in Journalism are offered. The course as outlined in the latest Fisk University catalog includes: (1) Essentials in Newspaper Technique—a course including practise in writing, editing, and methods of presentation; (2) The Law of Journalism—a study of libel, copyright, rights and duties of the press in reporting judicial proceedings, and the liabilities of the publisher, editor, reporter and contributor; (3) Ethics of Journalism—lectures discussing the proper responsibility to the public on the part of newspaper writers; (4) Art of Newspaper and Magazine Making—a course devoted to the studying of actual work of making a newspaper and magazine, with laboratory practice to supplement the theory studied.

Professional Training

What will in all probabilities mark the real beginning of professional training in Journalism among Negroes is the opening of the

proposed School of Journalism by Howard University, Washington, D. C. Owing to a limitation of finances, unfortunately the school has not yet been put in operation.

PROPOSED COURSES AT HOWARD UNI-VERSITY JOURNALISM SCHOOL The course as outlined in the Howard University catalog is based upon two years of college work, including a reading knowledge of at least two modern languages, and advanced work in English Composition. The

professional work covers two years and leads to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Journalism. The subjects offered are: Practice in Writing, Newspaper Technique, Newspaper Editing, The History of Journalism, Advertising, Journalistic French, Journalistic German, Journalistic Spanish, Elements of Law, Freehand and Applied Drawing, and certain college courses in History, Economics, Sociology, Literature and Politics.

TOURNALISM AT WILBERFORCE

While it does not have a separate department in Journalism, Wilberforce University offers courses in journalistic writing as a part of

the work in the department of English. Three courses are given

at present: Business English, Short Story Writing and Editorial Writing.

PRINTING

On the mechanical side of newspaper publishing, work is offered in printing at Hampandton Institute (Va.), Tuskegee Institute (Ala.), and Wilberforce University (Ohio). Many of the present printer-editors are products of these schools.

#### CHAPTER X

#### A FORECAST OF THE FUTURE

From its small beginning in 1827, Negro Journalism has steadily grown in the United States. Today it stands as a definite factor in Negro life. In truth, the Negro press reflects the growing race consciousness of eleven million American citizens of African decent. The status of the Negro newspaper is fixed—it is here to stay. While daily newspapers may devote space to "News of Interest to Colored People;" yet they can never take the place of the newspapers which are published solely for the race group. The appeal of the Negro newspaper is direct and racial. In a manner similar to that of the rural press, the Negro paper has an unlimited field because of its personal relationship to its readers.

During the first half century of Negro Journalism, it is doubtful if any of the papers were financial successes; in truth, most of them were published as purely partisan or propagandists organs, and were supporte dthrough the contributions of sympathizers. Today Negro newspapers are conducted on business principles and pay reasonable returns to their investors.

Papers in the large cities have built up enormous subscription lists of bona fide, paid-up subscribers. Likewise, they carry a large amount of well-paying advertisements, and as a result of these sources of income they are able to give attractive renumeration to their publishers, editorial staff and business staff. No longer must the Negro journalist necessarily be an unpaid worker. Trained journalists can obtain respectable salaries and find as many openings as their fellow workers on metropolitan dailies and national weeklies and monthlies.

That the calibre of the work done on Negro publications will' continue to improve is highly probable in view of the fact that every year an increasing number of trained young men and women

are entering the field, and bringing with them burning enthusiasm and high professional ideals. The Courses in Journalism in the Negro colleges, also, will soon be having a telling effect on the future Negro journalist. Already a few of the twentieth century Negro youths are being attracted to the professional study of Journalism, preferring the possibilities of its virgin field to the overcrowded professions of law, teaching, medicine and theology.

The future of Negro Journalism is limited only by the zeal and conscientious effort which its workers bestir themselves to exert. A marvelous growth and success has been recorded within the past 95 years, but greater achievement is yet to be accomplished. Negro semi-weeklies, and eventually dailies in the larger cities, will undoubtedly be developed within the next decade. The size of many of the present weeklies will be increased of necessity. Better news stories and more real news will be the result of the successful functioning of such news syndicates as the Associated Negro Press.

The decreasing of illiteracy among the Negroes will continue to be carried forward by the Negro press, with a mutual benefit to the race and its publications. Higher standards of literacy will bring greater appreciation for reading and thereby create a stronger support for the Negro publisher.

In the immediate future, perhaps, the great field for development in Negro Journalism is in the South where the great mass of Negro population, despite the Northern immigration, resides. There Negro Journalism needs and will continue to need its best trained editors and managers. There it will need men of sound judgment and common sense; men of purpose and high professional ideals; men of broad sympathy and great patience.

# PARTIAL LIST OF NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES

#### ALABAMA

The Birmingham ReporterBirmingham
The Emancipator
The Mobile ForumMobile
The Mobile Advocate
The Mobile Weekly Press
The Negro Leader
The Times PlaindealerBirmingham
The Voice of the PeopleBirmingham
The Voice of the Negro
- The voice of the Negro
ARKANSAS
A.M.A.O.A.O
Hot Springs EchoHot Springs
Arkansas BannerLittle Rock
The Appreciator-UnionFort Smith
The Negro AdvocateFordyce
- The Interstate Reporter
The Opinion-Enterprise
-Western ReviewLittle Rock
White River Advocate
with River Advocate
- The School HeraldWarren
ARIZONA
The Phoenix TribunePhoenix
CALIFORNIA
•
The EagleLos Angeles
- The LiberatorLos Angeles
The Citizens AdvocateLos Angeles
Oakland SunshineOakland
The Western OutlookOakland
The New Age
The New Age
The Western ReviewSacramento
COLORADO
Galancia Galannan
Colorado StatesmanDenver
The Denver Advocate
The Rising SunPueblo
CONNECTICUT
► Hartford HeraldHartford
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

#### **FLORIDA**

· compa
Florida SentinalJacksonville
Labor TemplarJacksonville
West Florida Bugle
West Fibrida Dugie
The Tampa BulletinTampa
Metropolitan Taliahanne
The Palatka AdvocatePalatka
The Colored CitizenPonsacola
GEORGIA .
The Savannah JournalSavannah
The Savannah TribuneSavannah
The Americus ChronicleAmericus
The Athens ClipperAthens
The Atlanta Post
The Atlanta Fustance and an arrangement of the Atlanta
The Atlanta Independent
Rome EnterpriseRome
The AdvocateBrunswick
The Augusta NewsAugusta
Supreme Circle News
ILLINOIS
122111313
Inter-State Echo Danville
The Broad Axe
The Chicago Defender
The Chicago Idea
The Peoples Advocate
The Searchlight
The WhipChicago
The ForumSpringfield
The Weekly StarMound City
The Illinois Conservator
Advance Citizens
INDIANA
The Indianapolis FreemanIndjanapolis
The Indianapolis Recorder
The Indianapolis Ledger
The Indianapolis WorldIndianapolis
The Terre Haute CitizenTerre Haute
National Defender and SunGary
The Gary DispatchGary
IOWA
Iowa State Bystander
iowa State Bystander
Buxton Gazette Buxton
KANSAS
CACHAN
The Topeka PlaindealerTopeka
The Popular Inditional Company of the Company of th
The Negro Star
Wichita Protest
The Coffeyville Globe
Hutchinson BladeHutchinson

# KENTUCKY

The Colu The Loui Kentucky Lexington The Torce Saturday	mbian H sville N Home Weekl :hlight	ferald. ews Finder y New	  <b>S</b>	• • • •	••••		• • • • •	Louisville Louisville Louisville Louisville Louisville Louisville Hoxington Hopkinsville
,				LO	UISI	ANA		

The	Advance Messenger	. Alexandria
The	News-Enterprise	.Shreveport
	Watchman	

#### MARYLAND

The	Afro-AmericanBaltimore
The	CrusaderBaltimore
The	Herald-CommonwealthBaltimore

#### **MASSACHUSETTS**

The	GuardianBoston	
The	Boston ChronicleBoston	

#### MICHIGAN

The	Michigan	n Age	Ann Arbor
The	Detroit	Leader	Detroit

#### MINNESOTA

The	National	AdvocateMinneap	olis
The	Appeal		Paul

#### MISSISSIPPI

The Cotton Farmer	
The Delta Lighthouse	
The Natchez Weekly Herald	Natchez
The National Star	
The Star	
The Morning Star	Columbus
The Mississippi Monitor	Meridan
The Light	Vicksburg
The New Era	Indianola
The Weekly Times	Hattlesburg
The Weekly Reporter	Natchez
Central Mississippi Signal	
The Progressive Torchlight	
The Advance	
The National Defender	
The Informer	
The National News Digest	Mound Bayou

#### MISSOURI

The St. Louis Independent-Clarion. St. Louis The St. Louis Argus St. Louis The Anchor Caruthersville The Missouri State Register Hannibal Kansas City Sun Kansas City The National Mirror Kansas City The Western Messenger Jefferson City The St. Louis Independent News St. Louis  NEBRASKA
The MonitorOmaha
NEW JERSEY
The Eastern Observer
NEW YORK
The New York News.  The Amsterdam News.  New York City The New York Age.  New York City The Negro World.  New York City The Commoner.  New York City
NORTH CAROLINA
The Gate City Argus. Greensboro High Point Colored American. High Point The Charlotte Advertiser. Charlotte The Voice Rocky Mount The Raleigh Independent Raleigh The Home News Wilmington The Gazette. Charlotte Signs of the Times Elizabeth City The Winston-Salem News Winston-Salem
оню
The Dayton Forum
OKLAHOMA
The Boley Progress. Boley The Oklahoma Guide. Guthrie The Muskogee Scimetar Muskogee Rentiesville News Rentiesville Clearview Patriarch Clearview The Tulsa Star Tulsa The Oklahoma Sun. Tulsa The Black Dispatch Oklahoma City

### OREGON

OREGON
The AdvocatePortland
PENNSYLVANIA
The Advocate Verdict
The Philadelphia CourantPhiladelphia
The Philadelphia TribunePhiladelphia
- The Philadelphia American
- The Public JournalPhiladelphia
The Pittsburgh CourierPittsburgh
The Pittsburgh AmericanPittsburgh
The Advocate
RHODE ISLAND
The AdvanceProvidence
SOUTH CAROLINA
The Charleston Messenger
The New EraCharleston
The Allendale AdvocateAllendale
The Southern Indicator
The Informer
The Light
The Negro Chronicle
The People's Recorder
- The Rockhill Messenger
TENNESSEE
Bluff City News
East Tennessee News
Chattanooga Defender
- Memphis TimesMemphis
The Western World ReporterMemphis
The Nashville Globe
— The Nashville Clarion
TEXA\$
Texas GuideVictoris
The Victoria Guard
The Calvert Bugle
The City Times
- The Galveston New Idea
The Dallas Express
The Industrial EraBeaumon
The HeraldAustin
~ The WatchmanAustin
The Houston Informer
The Houston Observer
The Texas Freeman
The Western Star
The Houston Informer
The Sun Antonio Inquires Sen Antonio

The Gem City Bulletin	
The Conservative Counselor	
Forth Worth HornetFort Worth	l
VIRGINIA	
The Charlottesville Messenger	
The Colored VirginianPetersburg	
The Weekly ReviewPetersburg	•
The Richmond PlanetRichmond	ı
The Virginia Headlight	
The Virginia AdvocateRoanoke	
The StarNewport News	
The Journal and GuideNorfolk	٤
WASHINGTON	
The Seattle SearchlightSeattle	13
WEST VIRGINIA	
The AdvocateCharlestor	n
The Mountain Leader	
The Charleston Observer	n
The Pioneer Press	



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Per E. C. Auld, General Mgr. .

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